Vehicle Registration Plates

2345. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had suggested means of tender for selection of manufacturers for the sale of Vehicle Registration Plates in various States for a period of 15 years mentioning the security reasons; and

(b) the other countries where security features are used on Vehicle Registration Plates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) The Ministry has suggested the tender route for selection of manufacturers for sale of High Security Vehicle Registration Plates in various States as it is a transparent method to ensure the availability of these plates to vehicle owners at best prices. Ministry have NOT suggested that the tender be valid for a period of 15 years.

(b) As per information available, the countries where some of the security features of the registration plate are in use are Armenia, Austria, Columbia, Ethiopia, France, Georgia, Iran, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Sri Lanka, Oman, Tanzania, Uganda, Uruguay, USA and Zambia etc.

National Highways in Assam

2346. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of National Highways constructed in Assam during the last five years;

(b) the details of the expenditure incurred thereon during this period; and

(c) the details of the steps taken by Government for constructing new National Highways in the State during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) This Ministry does not construct new National Highways. State Roads are declared as National Highways. In the

last five years, 9 roads aggregating for a length of about 540 km. have been declared as National Highways in Assam.

(b) Rs. 18.79 crores have been spent for the improvement of these National Highways.

(c) At present there is a ban on declaration of any new National Highway in the country including in the State of Assam. As and when the ban is lifted, the declaration of new National Highways will be considered keeping in view the criteria laid down for the purpose.

Renaming of Yanam-Yedurulanka bridge in Andhra Pradesh

2347. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh Government has requested to rename Yanam-Yedurulanka bridge in the east Godavari District as Balayogi Vaaradhi in the name of late Speaker Shri Balayogi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by his Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Ministry of convey the approval of Government of India for naming the Yanam-Yedurulanka bridge on National Highway No. 214 in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh as "Balayogi Vaaradhi" in the memory of late Shri G.M.C. Balayogi.

(c) Ministry informed Government of Andhra Pradesh about the extant policy of the Ministry in this regard.

Exemption limit for SSI sector

2348. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Finance Ministry has agreed to restore the exemption limit on Rs. 1 lakh to small scale sector;